

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01559 071242Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
SSM-03 AID-05 /072 W
-----071259Z 100596 /43

O R 071133Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3577
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1559

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINS MILI LE IS SY
SUBJ: STANDOFF IN THE SOUTH?

REF: BEIRUT 1541, BEIRUT 1548

1. UPI CORRESPONDENT REPORTS PALESTINIANS AS OF LATE APRIL 6 WERE IN FIRM CONTROL OF TAIBEH, AS WELL AS MOST SURROUNDING HILLS. CHRISTIANS, PARTICULARLY AT AL UDAYSAH ON ISRAELI BORDER, AND PALESTINIANS IN AREA CONTINUE INTENSE ARTILLERY EXCHANGES, BUT ALMOST NO GROUND MOVEMENT. JOURNALIST, WHO SPENT DAY OF APRIL 6 IN TAIBEH, REPORTS SOME 200-300 PALESTINIANS AND ASSORTED LEBANESE LEFTIST SUPPORTERS IN VILLAGE. THEY HAD CAPTURED LARGE QUANTITY OF ISRAELI-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT WHEN THEY DROVE CHRISTIANS OUT FEW DAYS AGO, INCLUDING ONE LARGE BOX OF MATZOS. JOURNALIST REPORTS PALESTINIANS VERY CONFIDENT, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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BELIEVE THEY LIKELY TO RESUME OFFENSIVE NEXT WEEK, PERHAPS IN MARJAYUN AREA. MARJAYUN AREA APPARENTLY FAIRLY QUIET FOR NOW.

2. CHRISTIANS FINALLY GET THE SYRIAN MESSAGE. KFUR FRONT LEADERS MET IN BEIRUT APRIL 6 AND WERE BRIEFED BY BECHIR GEMAYEL ON SITUATION IN THE SOUTH. AFTERWARDS, BECHIR

SAID "MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN." CAMILLE CHAMOUN COMPLAINED ABOUT THE LACK OF INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP. ALEXANDER GEMAYEL APRIL 7 TOLD AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE THAT CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH HAD BEEN DOING WELL, BUT THAT REPORTS IN CHRISTIAN CHANNELS LATE APRIL 6 BEGAN TO SPEAK OF SYRIAN SUPPORT TO THE PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS. ALEXANDER ALSO COMPLAINED THAT CHRISTIANS IN THE SOUTH ARE HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED. KFUR LEADERS PLAN TO DISCUSS AN APPEAL TO "ARAB LEADERS," CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS, WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS APRIL 7, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, BUT AN NLP SOURCE TOLD AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE THAT WHAT THE FRONT IS REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT IS APPARENTLY SAUDI AND KUWAIT PRESSURE ON SYRIA TO SUPPORT THE PALESTINIANS IN THE SOUTH. PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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